

Sierra National Forest – Willow Creek Watershed
Collaborative Ecological Restoration Planning Process

Kick Off Meeting – September 12, 2011, 12-3pm
North Fork Mono Rancheria Community Center

Willow Creek Collaborative Forest Planning Group

Facilitators: Mandy Vance and Elissa Brown from Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Aimee Smith from Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger Dist.

Introductions

Goal of facilitators is to keep meeting on track and guide conversation.

Process for this meeting. A total of 90 individuals were interviewed and 25 were used to create power point presentation.

Concerns:

Their relationship with forest

Native American concerns

Long term residents

Residents engaged in fire safety or forest restoration

Residents in timber harvest or wood products business

Economics

Facilitators heard that people were willing to work together and build bridges to get restoration work done. They want to be a part of it.

General agreement for need of forest restoration

Need for clarifying Forest Service intentions in commitment and constraints.

Flyer – Visions for the Future – (circular) A forest that breathes: manage for air and water quality > Fully functioning terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems > Aggressive fuel management and fire-safe communities > Provide products and employment for the local economy while managing the lands as good stewards > Big picture and broad perspective necessary > Protect and create Habitat > Access: trails and roads are more open and campgrounds improved > Make forest sustainable for traditional uses >

Not on the flyer: habitat and meadow restoration, utilize fire for restoration.

Report on stakeholder interview findings...

WUI, communities near forest – fear of wildfire. Restoration is not a one-time process and needs funding.

Riparian habitat – to treat or no treatment.

Air quality constraints.

Resource extraction (?) and restoration

Fuel reduction, campground, logging, economic interests

Access and resource use – Roads and trails maintenance (multi-use trails conflicts),
campground needs improvement.

Native American resources – gathering areas and cultural sites.

Stakeholders relations with Forest Service:

Don't trust that FS will respond to input

Clarify priorities, expectations

Stakeholders want to contribute

Planning and development of field trips

Implement use of maps and document cultural sites

Maintain trails and campgrounds

Assist with restoration efforts.

Need for FS advisory board to have direct impact or a monitoring committee

Explanation of FS planning process:

Stakeholder influence on public projects, FS constraints and uncertainties, Importance of
stakeholder participation – Diverse perspective is important to strengthen forest planning.

Comments – issue work groups as needed in Oct and Nov.

General meeting to consider issue group proposals

FS staff drafts report

Review and revise report for Jan 2012

Celebrate and identify next steps

Conditions for success

1. Adequate representation of interest groups
2. FS addresses concerns about constraints and commitment

Dave Martin talks about Forest Plans.

Planning triangle, NFMA – National Forest Management Act > NEPA – National
Environmental Policy Act (site specific) > monitoring.

Public lands need public comment and input for management of public land. Challenges
are law, regulation and policy.

NFMA causes huge delays – there is planning, approval, appeals and legal processes. The
more that can be accomplished in the NFMA the less time and money spent on NEPA
side of the triangle. The more agreements in the WCC (Willow Creek Collaborative) in
the NFMA phase, the less NEPA pages.

Willow Creek Landscape Assessment Plan – What is there and what do we want it to
look like.

Then in the monitoring of the project (bottom of triangle) what was the outcome ? Then
it goes back to NFMA for changes.

Question asked – “In the new planning role does the old framework go away?” Yes, the old framework goes away.

Aimee Smith

Range Management, grazing. Liaison for this group and the Forest Service.

Jeanne(?) Butterfield music – Window of Time (about the North Fork mill)

Participants sharing their interests in the forest and watershed:

- 1 Wants to see more diversity of plant and animal life.
- 2 Life long Greys Mt., Rock Cr. camper has noticed contamination in Rock Cr. Pool by marijuana grow sites.
- 3 Scenic byway president amazed at how few people have been to Sequoias
- 4 Need for human part to keep logging for forest health
- 5 Brenda Negley concerned about forest density
- 6 Ed Fadeley thinks forest is going down hill
- 7 Barney says work together
- 8 Story of loving the stress free environment of the forest
- 9 Lover of Nelder Grove

Break\

‘Agreement to Participate’ Draft copy. Discussion of Willow Creek Planning Collaborative Group Charter, Draft 9/2/11

Ground rules: Strive for agreement in consensus, common courtesy, be honest, speak up and share.

Dealing with media: Concerns of what and how to respond and guidelines. Rebecca Garcia will provide guidance for those concerns.

Variety of different documents and plans on how to get things done on the forest. Forest plan is project specific. Desired conditions (DC) defined: The “why here and why now” it takes part in the scoping process (on the right side of the triangle).

Defining DC vs how to get there. Project specific.

In developing alternatives try to understand what the disagreements are.

Seek to understand and then to be understood.

Who is missing?

(Send out list of agencies that are present)

OHV people – summer and winter

CA mule deer assoc.

County Govt. – Tom wheeler

Water groups

Outdoor enthusiasts

Historic Society

Mill site

Trail groups

Archeologist groups
PGE
Mining interests
Rock/Mineral/Fossil collectors (individuals and groups)
Local agriculture (e.g. Kerns, 3 S)prings
Private land owners
Tending the wild – those here in spirit (good background for discussion) Kat Anderson
CA native plant society – local chapters
United plant savers
Cal trout
Climbers FSEE
Marijuana growers – legalize growth (important for safety)
Group for health and safety and toxins?
Sierra Senior Hikers and other hiking groups
Boaters/kayakers/canoeists
Outdoor educators
Fishing groups

Ongoing Involvement in Forest Planning and Implementation...What is this process going to accomplish?

A document that helps FS identify and accomplish goals.

Education and sharing is one goal.

What might happen from this group?

Ed put up water towers for spring development

FS, Fish and Game and other habitat restoration projects (specific)\

Tap into community service projects for youth

Meadow tree abatement

Start a “friends of the Willow Creek Watershed”

Scenic Byway buddy up with WCWS for fieldtrips

REI advertises to get helpers for one day restoration projects

Next steps

Tues Sept 20th is planning meeting at 09:30-1200

Email ideas to Aimee Smith asmith03@fs.fed.us

Field trip planning Thurs 0900-1130 at North Fork

Sept 23 field trip

Cultural communications workshop Oct 17-18

Possibly contact whoever has sued the Forest Service/Sierra Forest Mgt. Plans

Ed said “we should agree to disagree and don’t gun for each other. Everyone has a right to be in the forest.”

Meeting Attendees

Steve Haze
Gwen Nitta
Tootie Rivers
Michael & Joanne Freemire
Brenda Negley
Jean Butterfield and guest (Stephen DeRuby?) and her mother
Ron Goode
Elissa Brown
Mandy Vance
Aimee Smith
Jack McGowan
Anne Grandy
Judi Tapia
Shane Krogen
Kevin Friesen
Mark T. Smith
Bernard Berrier
Dirk Charley
Denise Robinson
Bethany Soto
Julie and David Konna
Jim Robinson
Lou Beihn
Larry Duysen
William Fjellbo
Bonnie Hale
Patrek Beihn
Susan Antenen
Rebecca Garcia
Warner Harris
Gary Lasky
Chuck Sikora
Scott Marsh
Sarah Rutherford
Diann Miller
Joe Middleton
Craig Schub
Michelle Gillette
John Shelton
Ed Fadeley
Mary Motola
Tim Kroeder
SP?
W. Wellis

Jenny Johnson
Steve Welch
Jenny Roope
Gay Abarbanell
Avis Punkin
Dave Martin
Ramon Mendez
John Bese